

# North Providence

FIRST TWO VISITS:

OCT. 27

DEC. 1

“ I eventually received the documents from the school department, but only after some resistance. The Superintendent’s secretary was nice and willing to help, but not until she had some questions answered. I was asked whether I was a North Providence resident, where I lived and went to school, what I wanted the information for, and more specifically, for what I was using it. Likewise, she was hesitant about giving me a budget to take with me, so I offered to look at it along with policy manual. She was otherwise a helpful, courteous person. It was apparent that she was following the orders of the Superintendent while asking me such specific questions. ”

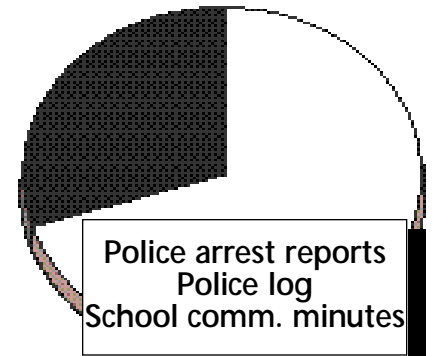
### School Committee Minutes:

- Readability: NA
- Thoroughness: NA
- Layout: NA
- Legal Compliance: NA

### City/Town Council Minutes:

- Readability: Good
- Thoroughness: Good
- Layout: Good
- Legal Compliance: NA

## Documents Not Received

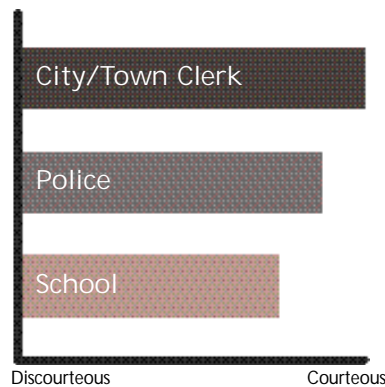


Access to requested documents was denied in 30 percent of the encounters in North Providence. The various employees encountered in North Providence were generally courteous with the Town Clerk receiving the highest possible demeanor rating. Although generally courteous, the town employees were also quite curious, inquiring about the reason for the request in almost two-thirds of the encounters.

Two years ago, a North Providence resident filed a complaint with the Attorney General claiming that “he tried without success to get four areas of information from the School Department.” (C.J. Chivers, “State Clears School in Open-Records Probe,” Providence Journal-Bulletin, September 28, 1995, p.D1) The Attorney General’s office cleared the department of these charges. Whatever the merits of that complaint, the experience based on several visits suggests that the School Department is not always in full compliance. The North Providence School Department is one of only five in the state that required a written request for particular documents. This requirement was imposed in connection with two of the five documents requested and one of those documents was never provided.

North Providence is also one of four towns that charged more than 15 cents per page. This practice, the imposition of written requirements, and the general inquisitiveness of the clerks render North Providence a town with plenty of room for improvement in providing open access to public records.

## How We Were Treated



## Comparison: Cities/Towns

